

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2002
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) was called to order on March 20, 2002 at 10:05 a.m. at San Francisco City Hall, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, California.

Members Present: Rod Diridon, Chairperson
 Leland Wong, Vice Chairperson
 Ernest A. Bates
 Ben L. Hom
 Jerry Epstein
 Fran Florez
 Joseph E. Petrillo
 T.J. Stapleton

Members Absent: William E. Leonard

Approval of Minutes for February 20, 2002 Meeting

Chairperson Diridon presented the minutes for approval. Member Hom moved to approve the February 20, 2002 meeting minutes. Member Stapleton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 8-0.

Chairperson Diridon presented a plaque and resolution to Edward P. Graveline in honor of his service as a Board Member, Vice Chairperson and acting Chairperson of the Authority from 10/6/97 – 1/4/02. Mr. Graveline thanked the Authority for the recognition and wished the Board well.

Chairperson Diridon announced the presence of Michael Dukakis Vice Chairperson and currently the Acting Chairperson of Amtrak Board of Directors. Mr. Dukakis discussed his perception of how Amtrak and the Authority can work together and support each other. He commended the Authority for its work and its efforts in gaining national support. Mr. Dukakis suggested \$2 billion be added to the \$6 billion bond measure of California Senate Bill 1856 for Amtrak.

Chairperson Diridon announced the presence of the Honorable Willie Brown, Mayor of San Francisco. Mayor Brown welcomed the Authority to San Francisco and expressed his support for the Authority's continued progress.

Chairperson Diridon announced the presence of Supervisor Aaron Peskin. On behalf of San Francisco City and County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Peskin welcomed the Authority and expressed support for the high-speed rail project.

Chairperson Diridon introduced William (Bill) Lee, Chief Administrator, City and County of San Francisco. Mr. Lee welcomed the Authority to San Francisco. He expressed the importance of the high-speed rail project for both Northern and Southern California.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mehdi Morshed reported on current legislative initiatives pertaining the Authority.

- ◆ SB796, authored by Senator Costa, as amended March 11, 2002. This bill would delete the Authority's termination date and provisions relating to Ex-officio members, the Secretary for the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency and the Director of the State Department of Transportation. Some technical provisions were also added to the bill.

Chairperson Diridon asked for an action to endorse SB796. Vice Chairperson Wong motioned the Authority endorse SB796. Member Epstein seconded the motion, which carried 8-0.

- SB1856, authored by Senators Costa, Burton, Figueroa, Karnette, Kuehl and Soto. This bill would provide for the issuance of a \$6 billion general obligation revenue bond for purpose of funding the planning and construction of a high-speed train system in California. This bill would provide for the submission of the bond act to voters in accordance with specified law and would require a 50% match by the Federal government. The bill was introduced at a press conference with a number of supporters including Phil Angelides, State Treasurer; Assemblymember Dutra, Chair of Assembly Transportation Committee; Senator Kevin Murray, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee; and Assemblymembers Dean Florez and John Longville. Also present at this press conference were industry and labor organizations in support of the proposal. This bill is scheduled to be presented before the Senate Transportation Committee April 16, 2002.

Chairperson Diridon asked for an action to endorse SB1856. Vice Chairperson Wong motioned the Authority endorse SB1856. Member Epstein seconded the motion, which carried 8-0.

- SB1799, authored by Poochigian introduced. This bill would require that at least one member of the Authority be a resident of the San Joaquin Valley.

Due to the increasing interest in high-speed rail, a Senate subcommittee has been formed. The High-Speed Rail subcommittee has five members including Senator Costa, Chairperson; Senator Monteith; Senator Bill Morrow; Senator Murray; Senator Speier. Chairperson Diridon and Executive Director Morshed have been asked to testify at the first hearing scheduled April 2, 2002. The next scheduled hearing is April 16, 2002.

Executive Director reported on the budget. The Authority's 2002-2003 FY budget, as proposed by Governor Davis, will go before the Senate Budget Subcommittee #2 on March 21, 2002. Due to the \$1.25 million grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the Legislature decreased the Authority's state funding by \$1.25 million. Staff has been working with FRA to have the grant approved. A draft agreement between FRA and the Authority is currently being reviewed by the Attorney General's office. Executive Director Morshed requested authorization to enter into the grant agreement with FRA, once the final language is prepared. Vice-Chairperson Wong moved to approve delegation authority to Executive Director Morshed to sign and enter into agreement with FRA for the \$1.25 million grant from FRA. Member Hom seconded the motion, which carried 8-0.

Pursuant to the Board's direction given at the last board meeting, a request for additional federal funding has been submitted to Senator Feinstein and Representative Matsui. This is a request for \$6 million to fund six items currently not funded.

Executive Director Morshed reported the next board meeting is April 17, 2002 in San Bernardino.

California High-Speed Rail 2002/2003 Schedule

Deputy Director Dan Leavitt gave an overview of the Authority's 2002/2003-work plan schedule. Kip Field, Project Manager, Parsons Brinckerhoff presented an updated schedule and key milestones for the completion of the program EIR/EIS. A copy of this presentation is available on the Authority's website www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.

Transbay Terminal Presentation

Ms. Maria Ayerdi, Executive Director, Transbay Joint Powers Authority delivered a presentation on the efforts to implement a new multi-modal transportation station at the San Francisco Transbay Terminal. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

Public Comment

Margaret Okuzumi, Executive Director, Bay Rail Alliance

Ms. Okuzumi reported on regional support for the Transbay terminal redevelopment plan and high-speed rail project. She indicated that public enthusiasm and the success of high-speed rail is contingent upon high-speed rail coming into the Transbay terminal. Ms. Okuzumi requested the Authority's proactive support of the Transbay terminal/Caltrain downtown extension redevelopment plan.

Russell Reagan

Mr. Reagan expressed his support for a downtown San Francisco high-speed rail station location. He stated if high-speed rail does not go directly into downtown San Francisco it will also lose its time advantage over air travel.

Caltrain Corridor Improvements Update

Mr. Howard Goode, Caltrain Joint Powers Board, delivered a presentation on the current and future Caltrain improvement projects, including: the electrification of Caltrain, the "Baby Bullet" improvements and service, and the Caltrain extension to the Transbay terminal. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

Capitol Corridor Improvements Update

Mr. Eugene Skoropowski, Managing Director, Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority delivered a presentation on current and future Capitol Rail Passenger Service improvement projects.

Public Comment

John F. Ferninandi Jr., Fresno Task Force for Rail Consolidation

Mr. Ferninandi stated Fresno is the connectivity point between Northern California and Southern California and therefore he requested the Board to keep Fresno in mind when considering the San Francisco – Los Angeles route. Mr. Ferninandi welcomed new Board Member, Fran Florez.

Arnold Ramming, City of Bakersfield

Mr. Ramming discussed the City and County of Kern's preferences for high-speed rail in the Bakersfield area. Although the City and County of Kern support all three recommended sites, the County prefers the proposed airport site and the City prefers the proposed downtown station locations. During a joint meeting of the City and Kern County, an agreement was made to present a unified voice to the Authority. Therefore, the City and the County of Kern will be working on a commonly preferred site. Mr. Ramming welcomed and expressed his pleasure in the newly appointed Board Member, Fran Florez.

Alan C. Miller, TRAC

Mr. Miller expressed his concern regarding recent media coverage suggesting the proposed northern terminus for a high-speed train system being located in San Jose. He suggested corrective action so that the rest of Northern California voters do not feel isolated. Mr. Miller expressed his support of Altamont Pass Route, which is no longer being evaluated by the Authority. Mr. Miller added that his organization has lobbied for funding to keep the high-speed rail project going and although TRAC is a critic, it wants to see high-speed rail built.

Elizabeth Graves Mahan, Vice President, Central Valley Rails to Trails Foundation

Ms. Mahan expressed concern over preserving the Central California Traction Rail Corridor. She stated that the Authority's reports mention the corridor as a potentially abandoned rail corridor. However, she informed the Authority that negotiations are currently underway to use the Central California Traction Rail Corridor as a non-motorized trail. Therefore, Ms. Mahan requested the Authority consider the plans

and efforts of the community in this regard. She also expressed support for the downtown Bakersfield station location.

Dan McNamara, Vice President, Train Riders Association of California (TRAC)

Mr. McNamara expressed enthusiasm for the high-speed rail project. He expressed support of the Altamount Pass, which is no longer being evaluated by the Authority. Mr. McNamara requested the Altamount Pass be reconsidered using Quantm software.

Richard L. Silver, Rail Passenger Association of California

Mr. Silver welcomed the newest Board Member Fran Florez. Mr. Silver stated he is former Vice President of TRAC. He expressed his support of the elimination of the Altamount Pass and the need for the project stay on course. Mr. Silver requested a new high-speed rail brochure be created for public distribution.

Identification of Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next Authority Board meeting is scheduled April 17, 2002 in San Bernardino, California.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.